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BASED ON PRELIMINARY RESULTS, UP TO 98% OF STUDENTS WITH CREDITS TO GRADUATE – WILL GRADUATE

PHOENIX (Wednesday, May 17, 2006) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today released preliminary AIMS test results for the graduating class of 2006.

Horne gave the following preliminary information:

“Based on historic numbers, we would expect about 48,950 students to have the credits to graduate. 46,037 or 94% have passed all three tests. Based on the preliminary results from the first ten schools reporting, it appears that augmentation, reciprocity, and special education exemptions, will add approximately 4% more. Of the students with the credits to graduate, up to 98% will graduate.

“For the remaining students, about 2%, if they are in remediation programs, they can take the test in July. If they pass, they will receive their diplomas in time for whatever they will do in the fall, whether it is continuing education or a job.

“If they still do not pass, they can continue to take the test at state expense until they demonstrate they have the skills they need to succeed in today’s economy, and receive their diplomas. We have not given up on anybody.

“The basis for the preliminary calculations is as follows: Schools report their graduation figures after the fifth year, so our best historic figures are for 2004. In that year, 48,448 graduated out of a senior class of 63,084. This is 76.8%. This year’s senior class has 63,739 students, so applying the same percentage we would expect 48,952 to have the credits to graduate. We now have the results from the testing company, indicating that 46,037 passed all three tests, so 94% passed all three tests. The addition of approximately 4% from augmentation, reciprocity, or special education exemption, is based on preliminary reports from the first ten schools.”

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